

## ABSTRACT

5 A tube rack comprises a base having an array of vertical openings extending therebetween, the openings being configured and dimensioned to receive a plurality of tubes, with the upper ends of the tubes being accessible at the top surface. The base includes base sidewalls that each include a co-axial trunnion extending from the associated sidewall. The tube rack also includes a rotatable and removable cover having a front wall, a back wall and first and second sidewalls, wherein the first and second side walls each include an associated notch open on a bottom surface thereof to allow the cover to be lowered onto the base, such that each of the notches rests on its associated trunnion and may be (i) vertically raised from its closed position on the trunnions and (ii) rotated about the trunnions from its closed position to allow access to the array of openings, wherein each of the notches includes a trunnion travel surface and a ledge surface and the ledge surface engages its associated trunnion to limit rotation of the cover beyond its full cover position.

Each of the openings comprises a plurality of support pads positioned within the opening to vertically support the tube within its associated opening. Each of the pads includes a chamfered concave surface that supportably engages the tube, while providing flow paths through which air may pass through the openings adjacent to the tube.